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Libya credited for past tips on terror strikes in Europe

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ROME — Libyan intelligence agents tipped off European authorities in past years to terrorists planning strikes against European targets, Italian and West German officials say.

The Libyan help stopped, however, in 1984 or 1985, said an Italian source who added: "It seems they have taken a different attitude."

The statements by German and Italian officials came in interviews in Bonn and Rome in which they dis-

cussed West European reluctance to join in the sweeping U.S. economic sanctions against the Libyan government of Col. Muammar Qaddafi. They spoke on condition of anonymity and would not provide details of the cases.

In the faction-riven Palestinian guerrilla movement, opposing groups find financial and logistical support from various Arab states, such as Libya. Col. Qaddafi's intelligence agents may have informed European authorities of the movements of members of Palestinian groups out of favor in Libya.

["I'm sure it's true," said John Rees, vice president of Mid-Atlantic Research Associates, "but it's not altruism on Qaddafi's part." In a telephone interview with The Washington Times, Mr. Rees said, "Qaddafi has always had good relations with the Italians, and he would be only too happy to snitch on Palestinian factions opposed to the ones he has supported."]

[In his 1982 book, "Libyan Sandstorm," John Cooley, then with the Christian Science Monitor, wrote that Col. Qaddafi enjoyed similar relations with the CIA from 1969-74. According to Mr. Cooley, the CIA effectively prevented coups against the Libyan leader by providing him with information about those plotting against him in exchange for his cooperation in other matters.]